

a local policy enforcement device coupled to the location determination device and to the functional unit; and a communication interface coupled to the local policy enforcement device to transmit to a central agency information related to a failure to meet a local policy and to receive from the central agency an enablement signal if the information complies with a remote policy.

31. A method of operating an apparatus, the method comprising:

performing authentication of an attempted user of the apparatus;

if the user is determined to be not authorized to use the apparatus,

disabling the apparatus; and

if the user is determined to be authorized to use the apparatus,

determining a location of the apparatus,

checking whether the location complies with a local policy administered by the apparatus,

if the location complies with the local policy,

enabling the apparatus, and

if the location does not comply with the local policy,

inquiring of an external agent whether the location complies with a remote policy administered by the external agent,

if the location complies with the remote policy,

enabling the apparatus, and

if the location does not comply with the remote policy,

disabling the apparatus.

32. The method of claim 31 further comprising:

the remote agent providing an electronic notification to a law enforcement device; and

the remote agent providing an electronic notification to the law enforcement device;

wherein the notifications to the law enforcement device include providing data identifying the location of the apparatus.

35. The method of claim 31 further comprising:

the remote agent registering the location of the apparatus.

41. (Amended) A system comprising:

a communication link;

an appliance including,

a functional unit;

a location determination device;

a local policy enforcement device coupled to the communication link and to the location determination device, the local policy enforcement device to transmit to a remote agent device information related to a failure to meet a local policy; and

the remote agent device including,

a registry adapted to store information regarding the apparatus; and

a remote policy enforcement device coupled to the communication link and to the registry, the remote policy enforcement device to transmit to the apparatus an enablement

A4 signal if the device information does not meet a local policy but does meet a remote policy.

51. (Amended) A method comprising:

determining a location of an apparatus;

the apparatus determining whether the location complies with a local policy;

if the location complies with the local policy,

enabling the apparatus;

if the location does not comply with the local policy,

transmitting to a remote device information

related to failure of the apparatus to comply with the local policy;

a remote device determining whether the location complies with a remote policy;

if the location complies with the remote policy,

enabling the apparatus,

if the location does not comply with the remote policy,

disabling the apparatus.

61. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a functional unit;

means for disabling the functional unit;

means for identifying a location of the apparatus;

means for communicating with a remote agent; and

means for checking the location against a local policy and for causing the means for disabling to enable the functional unit if the location complies with the local policy and for causing the means for disabling to enable the functional unit if the location does not comply with the local policy and the

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A remote agent indicates that the location does comply with a remote policy.

65. (New) A method of operating an apparatus, the method comprising:

determining a location of the apparatus;
determining if the location complies with a local policy;
if the location fails to comply with a local policy,
transmitting information related to failure to comply
with the local policy to a central agency;
receiving enabling information from the central agency if
the location complies with a remote policy; and
receiving disabling information from the central agency if
the location fails to comply with the remote policy.

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66. (New) A method as defined in Claim 65, wherein the information comprises the location of the apparatus.

67. (New) A method as defined in Claim 65, wherein the information comprises the most recent location of the appliance that complied with the local policy.

68. (New) A method as defined in Claim 65, further comprising:

disabling the apparatus in response to receiving disabling information from the central agency.

69. (New) A method as defined in Claim 65, further comprising :

enabling the apparatus in response to receiving disabling information from the central agency, provided that a user is authenticated.